ABSTRACT

A method and system for accessing objects in a network database uses a location path expression in a database query to indicate how the desired data may be located. Relationships linking attributes of the database objects are defined as path links to allow the viewing of different types of relations among the object attributes using the same set of data, i.e., in a polyarchical manner. Location path expressions are formed based on the defined path links between the object attributes. Each location path expression includes a view name that specifies a relationship to be used to view the data, and path elements identifying a path to the desired data based on the path links provided by the relationship. A search engine is provided to parse the location path string and carry the search operation for the requested data.